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ACTION: CIRCULAR

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Recent NATO and OAS consultations on proposed US actions concerning shipping in bloc-Cuba trade indicate need for clarification with regard to US objectives.

Our objectives are (1) to deny Soviet Bloc and Cuba access to Free World shipping for use in arms shipment to Cuba; (2) to make bloc-Cuba trade more costly by denying ships engaged in such trade opportunity to call at US ports on same voyage; (3) to compel ship owners and operators to make an election between engaging in bloc-Cuba trade and carrying cargos financed by US, such as foreign aid cargos, shipments of surplus agricultural products under PL 480 and Defense Department cargos. In addition, proposed measures will prohibit all US owned or controlled vessels, regardless of registry, from engaging in any trade with Cuba.

It is not our objective at this time to achieve by unilateral action a complete embargo on Free World trade with Cuba. US permits exports to Cuba of certain foodstuffs and medical supplies

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Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

Under Secretary

Clearance: L - Mr. Chayes
AFW - Mr. Toomey-InSubstance.
NEA - Mr. Grant

ARA - Mr. Martin
EUR - Mr. Burdett (in substance)
S/S - Mr. Furnas

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supplies for humanitarian reasons. However, efforts of other countries to curb trade with Cuba and particularly to prevent or discourage use of vessels under their registry from engaging in trade with Cuba would be consistent with US objectives and would be welcomed by US. Also desire embargo on sale and shipment of arms and strategic materials along lines of COCOM list.

Recipients should, as opportunity arises, endeavor to make clear our objectives where confusion exists. Guidance promised Circular 611 will follow.

END

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